765 [146 cont.] On the day of death, the members of the household start fasting on Ndeni, that is to say, they do not eat any cooked food, sometimes for a week, but sometimes for a longer period. Every day they paint their faces and bodies with soot; the widow covers her head with an old dirty cloth and is not permitted to leave the house, where, with the others, she begins the lament anew each day around noon. The surviving [304] husband sometimes also submits to a tattoo of mourning. Until 764 the burial the divided feather money is hung on a beam near the corpse. After two days at the earliest, the burial takes place in a very deep grave in the house itself, at the place where death came and after the corpse [147] has been wrapped in numerous 765 white tapa-mats (1). The feast for the dead is held on the fifth

1. Codrington, pp. 263f. O'Ferrall, p. 223. Joest in Baessler, p. 377, 390. Cf. also Markham, p. 62; Dillon, p. 304. According to Burney, p. 161, the lament for Chief Malope lasted "many days" [cited in English].

765 day (2). Inland, the bones are later dug up again and made
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2. Codrington, p. 263f.

into arrowheads; the skull is kept in a chest inside the house and food is offered to it as the representation of the spirit of the dead (3). On Vanikoro, too, the bones, which are said to be

3. Codrington, p. 264.

macerated in sea water, are used to make arrow points, and the skulls are preserved in the spirit huts or in the dwellings. One chief's skull was given a special shelter next to the spirit hut (4).

4. Dillon, p. 244. D'Urville, pp. 197, 217; 327, 334 (Gaimard). Lesson

765 [147 cont.]
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Revue d'Anthropologie, V, pp. 267, 269. Festetics de Tolna, Chez les Cannibales, pp. 273f.

765 At the festivals for the dead, the men here appear in full regalia (5). The lament for a chief is renewed by the women for

5. D'Urville, p. 197.

587 eight days at sunrise and at bedtime (6). On Ndeni the widow

6. Gaimard in D'Urville, p. 333.

is taken as a wife by a relative, usually a brother of the deceased, and he must pay her kin group a new purchase price, which, however, is not as high as that paid by the first husband (7).

7. O'Ferrall, p. 223.

Religious Matters; Games, Music

775 The supernatural world of the Santa Cruz Islanders con-
[776] tains spirits of two different kinds and ranks. With some justification the one kind can be called gods, while the other, larger class, which concerns the natives even in the ordinary events of life, consists of the spirits of the deceased. According to the beliefs of the tribe to which Codrington's informants belonged (8),

8. Codrington, The Melanesians, p. 264.

the souls after death assemble in a place called Natepapa and then go into the volcano Tinakula ("Temami"), where they are cremated and revived. Moreover, they have their actual abode there, although they are capable of making their old home

[147 cont.]
775 unsafe and may be seen, especially on damp nights, as fiery, or at least with fire in their armpits. The belief of the Reef Islanders rests on similar ideas of destruction and revitalization, despite superficial differences (9). According to it, the soul first goes

9. O'Ferrall in J.A.I., XXXIV (1904), p. 229. Joest in Baessler, p. 389, categorically denies the existence of any kind of ideas about the transmigration of souls -- a very vague conception.

to a place [148] where other spirits put it in the center and dance around it, then drop it in a deep waterhole where it is devoured by a large fish. The blood that spurts out of the fish revitalizes it, however, and it goes to another place. Persons who have fallen in battle become winged spirits, but other do not (1).

1. See footnote 9 above.

• 769 On Ndeni the fear of ghosts is very pronounced; Joest reports that the natives are very afraid of the dark and that when they covered the windows of his house with mats they sang loudly, perhaps to give themselves courage, perhaps to drive away the [828] spirits. Nightmares are attributed to an evil spirit that sits on one's chest (2).

2. Joest in Baessler, pp. 388f.

In the interior of the main island and on Vanikoro (3),

3. Cf. p. 141.

the exhuming and preservation of the skulls points to a general worship of the dead. In the coastal regions of Ndeni and on the [778] Reef Islands only the souls of esteemed persons are worshiped

[148 cont.]

769 778 as duka, and a cult is dedicated to them. This worship is continued for some time, but only if the spirit has proved by means of cures, favorable harvests, and the like that it is malete, that is, possesses special power. Probably it is only after such manifestations of power, or in the case of particularly influential personalities soon after death, that the duka post is erected in the men's house. It is made from a certain tree, with which the spirit apparently is thought to have a special connection. The post is carved with decorations, its completion is announced by [534] blowing the triton horn, and a great dance celebration is held, [535] A pig is slaughtered, and the filets, along with other food, are [782] sacrificed, that is to say, laid in front of the post, but soon removed and eaten. During the celebration, which lasts several days, prayers for wealth, good harvests, etc. are addressed to the spirit. On the last day, leaves of the tree from which the [755] post was made are placed in the water, on the next morning, even before sunrise, another meeting takes place, and the water is then regarded as curative. Similar celebrations take place when the post is renewed. This does not happen very often, however, for frequently an old duka is neglected or forgotten with the advent of a new one imbued with much malete (4).

4. Codrington, p. 139. O'Ferrall, pp. 228f.

756 Every duka vouchsafes a man its special relations and support through the intercession of which one can influence the spirit for good or evil. Such a sorcerer is called meduka. As a rule he is a member of the family of the deceased, but [149] this is definitely confirmed in only one particular instance, that is, if a young child dies, the father becomes its meduka and announces his new position to the people by appearing in public in the company of another meduka (1). One of the principal functions of

1. Codrington, pp. 196, 201. O'Ferrall, pp. 223ff. Cf. also Joest in Baessler, p. 388.

[150 cont.]
789 241 [852] are displayed, or rather "sacrificed." Men, women, and children take part in the celebration,[1] and it is believed that the more children are present, the better the harvest will be. When the breadfruit tree has begun to bear, one may not light a fire near it or throw a stone at it (2). On the Reef Islands, a celebra-

2. O'Ferrall, p. 224.

tion, a "sacred meal," is held in the bush about a month before the fruit is ripe. As the principal ceremony, after the breadfruit has been cooked, a man climbs a palm tree and throws down a fruit while the crowd cries: "This is the breadfruit of the whole land." Throughout the entire ceremony, the spirit is thanked for the harvest. Similar ceremonies are repeated upon the ripening of the other fruits used for food (3). It is

3. O'Ferrall, p. 230. On the island of La Guerta the Spaniards found large supplies of roasted taro and 120 dead pigs, apparently the provisions for a large feast: Figueroa in Dalrymple, p. 196.

• 769 241 said that certain spirits have power over the growth of food plants, individually or collectively (4). Taken from the standpoint of

4. O'Ferrall, ibid., and p. 224.

the duka conception as a whole -- insofar as the duka is involved and not a god of vegetation (5) -- this does not mean

5. Cf. Foy, loc. cit.

that each spirit has its special province to begin with, but rather he must first show through practice the things over which his malete extends, whether it "is good" for sickness, yams,

1 [i.e. - ceremonies to INCREASE FOOD SUPPLY, — ANALYST]

[150 cont.]
769 241 breadfruit, successful [151] voyages, or other things (1). Totem

1. Cf. related conceptions on the Banks Islands in Codrington, pp. 119ff., 191ff.

affiliation, however, may also be decisive.

778 [784] On one of the Reef Islands, Temami, as well as on the southern islands Utupua and Vanikoro, there are no duka posts, but there are spirit huts, which in part are identical with the meeting houses. In some of them stones are erected as representations of the spirits which there are called atua, the Polynesian designation. On Vanikoro they also contain triton shells and the skulls of the deceased. The atua appears as an animal, for example, a crab, ant, or fish (2). On Ndeni, too, there

2. O'Ferrall, p. 230. D'Urville, pp. 178f; 356 (Sainson); 326ff, 334, 344 (Gaimard). Lesson, Revue d'Anthropologie, V, p. 267f. According to Gaimard, p. 327, taro in particular seems to be sacrificed.

are sacred stones, although they are very rare. Codrington mentions that betel nuts are placed on such sacred stones for 241 the spirits (3). The one called kio (bird) is mentioned in par-

3. Codrington, pp. 139, 180.

ticular; when an area is planted and at harvest time, he is offered feather money and food, and among them there is always a bird, presumably so that birds will not devastate the 778 planting. Another stone, metabo, which resembles a huge fruit and has four smaller ones lying near it, is supposed to have come from the volcano Temami (Tinakula) and is therefore regarded as having great magical power (4). It appears

778 [151 cont.]
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4. O'Ferrall, p. 226.

It appears
that genetically these Ndeni stones have nothing to do with those of Vanikoro, for, while the latter seem to be representations of the god or atua in the Polynesian manner, those of Ndeni have the character of the totem stones of central Australia and Torres Strait; the cult dedicated to them shows analogies to the initichiuma ceremonies (5).

5. Cf. Spencer and Gillen, The Native Tribes of Central Australia, pp. 173ff. Report of the Cambridge Expedition to Torres Straits, V, pp. 233ff.

769 Finally, a strong indication of the cult of the dead is un-
778 mistakable in the use of human figures with magical power. We have already spoken of the taluna against sickness (6).

6. Page 145.

778 Joest speaks of figures with a body like a Worcestershire-sauce
789 bottle, with three genuine locks of hair and decorated with
241 ornaments, which the women carry on their backs like swaddled babies when they go to work in the planting and which are supposed to bring about a good yam harvest. The ornaments belong to the various owners of the yam plantings, and at harvest time each received an amount from the proceeds in proportion to his contribution toward decking out the figure (7). Joest was able

7. Joest in Baessler, p. 389. (Baessler is mistaken in not only giving the figure the shape of a bottle, but having it consist of one.)

778 to buy the figure of another spirit, menata, whose special [152] function was to provide for the well-being of the women (Fig. 63). It shows a man with a typical mane of hair and tattooing, otherwise quite similar to the taluna just mentioned, and Joest

/204 cont./

it is not held until the tenth day. Prior to this, he is put on the bier, rubbed with Curcuma, and a roll of feather money is placed around his head. He is buried in his men's house (1), which from

1. [Burial in the huts is also documented for the Reef Islands; the grave is lined with mats, and the corpse, wrapped in two mats, is covered with leaves and earth (Girieud and Herrenschmidt, p. 107).]

then on may not be entered. His successor must build a new one. People often let their hair grow long as a sign of mourning (2).

2. [This custom was observed by Joest (in Baessler, p. 377).]

There does not seem to be a skull cult in Graciosa Bay; on the contrary, the natives there show a great fear of skulls. Rather, it is limited to the south coast of Nitendi, but is said to be found sporadically also on the Reef Islands. The corpse is left to decompose in his own house, /Fig. 49 appears here/ and then the flesh is removed from the bones, the larger orifices of the skull (for. pyr., orbiter, for. magn.) are closed with wooden plugs, and the lower jaw is tied in its sockets; the skull is also painted with ocher. The eyes are sometimes indicated with marks burned on the wooden stoppers in the eye sockets, and the nose plug always projects quite far (cf. Fig. 49). First there is dancing around the skulls on the dance area; then they are placed on the frame above the fire and on occasion are carried about (3). Offerings do not seem to be made to them (4).

3. ["Taken to celebrations in baskets": Speiser, Südsee, p. 299. O'Ferrall, op. cit. (= Coombe, p. 190) also mentions that the skulls are kept in baskets. The

/204 cont./

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[113]

same thing is reported from Vanikoro by Dumond d'Urville, Voyage de l'Astrolabe, V, p. 334. F. de Tolna, Chez les Cannibales, p. 273, also notes that the skulls are kept on the shaft above the fire (cf. above, p. 48). Codrington, The Melanesians, p. 264, probably means nothing but this shaft with his "chest" /cited in English/,

Fig. 49. Skull (Ba V 1939), with artificial nose and eyes made of wood, the latter with designs burned in.

while Graebner, Ethn., I, pp. 147, 166, interprets it as a special box, as a skull-shrine. It is undoubtedly a mistake by the latter when he speaks of a special shelter for the chief's skull on Vanikoro; in d'Urville, ibid., there is an unmistakable reference to a burial hut in which the skull hangs in a basket.]

4. [However, see Codrington, p. 264.]

/204 cont./

Most of the skulls that I was able to acquire were those of children or women, and it is therefore probable that their preservation is less an expression of esteem than of affection. /205/ The skulls are kept in memory of a child or a favorite wife, and the orifices are plugged in order to hold in the "soul," to be able to imitate the soft parts -- or to prevent mice and other such animals from nesting there. Today the custom is no longer based on any religious motive, as is shown by the fact that the relatives themselves show absolutely no fear of the skulls, and by the statement of a white man whose native wife, in moments of great affection, would tell him that when he was dead she would keep his skull in her house. This is likewise shown by the small number of skulls that are kept, and among them only a few men's skulls (1). /Fig. 50 appears here./

1. [A comparison with related customs on other islands of the South Seas removes all doubt about the basic religious nature of skull preservation in the case of deceased members of the tribe, of the family (cf., for example, with regard to Geelvink Bay, New Guinea, O. Finsch, Neu-Guinea, Bremen, 1865, p. 104, and the skull korwar there; furthermore, their use at festivals for the dead by the eastern tribe of the Gazelle Peninsula, New Pomerania, Parkinson, Dreissig Jahre in der Südsee /Thirty Years in the South Seas/, p. 81, whose statements concerning the nature of the skull are illogical). We are all the more justified in this conclusion because the custom, together with the more lifelike shaping of the skull, can be attributed everywhere to the same culture group (for the time being, cf. Graebner, Anthropos, IV, pp. 740, 767).]